

Katy Times



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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Small business grants expand

By **SANDRA SADEK**
EDITORIAL INTERN

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact small businesses and changes were made to several grant programs to assist businesses during the economic downturn.

There are three grant programs available in Harris and Fort Bend counties as well as for the city of Fulshear.

On June 30, Harris County announced a \$30 million grant program to assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The Small Business Recovery Fund, funded through the federal CARES Act, will provide a grant up to \$25,000 to help cover payroll costs, rent, accounts payable and other operating expenses to businesses with 30 or fewer employees. The program will launch July 13 at 8 a.m. and will remain open for 10 business days, through July 24 at 3:30 p.m. The SBRF is not a loan program and does not have to be repaid.

To apply, for-profit and nonprofit businesses must be located within Harris County; businesses located within the city of Houston are not eligible unless located within Precinct One. Businesses must provide their tax return for 2018 or 2019; income and expenses for three months; articles of incorporation, business license, or DBA certificate; W-2 statement, pay stubs or personal tax return. If accepted, funds will be disbursed in two installments: 75% upon approval and 25% in November 2020.

Applications can be submitted online at www.harriscountytysbrfund.org or call 713-845-2476 for more information.

The Fort Bend County Commissioners Court also expanded the county's Small Business Emergency Grant Program. The initial \$22 million dollars allocated for the grant has been expanded to \$38 million. The eligibility of the program was also expanded to encompass businesses with revenues from \$25,000 to \$99,999 and \$2 million

See **GRANTS**, page 3

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Voters cast ballots in runoff elections

By **R. HANS MILLER AND SANDRA SADEK**

Katy area voters finally had a chance to go to the polls and make their voices heard in several primary runoff elections that now allow a clearer picture of the ballots voters will face when they go to the polls in November.

Among those who survived the second heat of the races for their respective nominations are Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls who is running for the U.S. House District 22 seat and Terry Adams who is running for the First Court of Appeals. Both Nehls and Adams had about 70% of the vote once votes were tallied on Tuesday.

"What a journey this campaign has been. I'm overwhelmed and humbled by y'all's support and faith. Now the real work begins, and I can't be more excited to continue this journey with y'all. God bless and thank you," Nehls said in a Facebook post on Tuesday evening.

Statewide and judicial

Nehls defeated Kathleen Wall for the U.S. House District 22 Republican nomination with 70.03% of the vote. He will be facing Democrat Sri Preston Kulkarni in November for Pete Olson's seat, who is not seeking another term.

Christa Castaneda defeated Roberto R. "Beto" Alonzo for the Texas Railroad Commissioner's Democratic nomination with 61.95% of the votes. She will be running against Republican James Wright in the November election. The Railroad Commission, despite its misleading moniker, oversees the energy industry, including oil and natural gas, throughout the state.

Incumbent Republican Representative Mike McCaul (R-Austin) will face Democratic opponent Mike Siegel after Siegel defeated Pritesh Gandhi in the Democratic runoff. Siegel secured 54.24% of the vote to Gandhi's 45.67%.

MJ Hegar defeated Royce West for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Senate seat with 52.13% of the vote. She will be running against incumbent John Cornyn (R) in the November election.

"Together, (my supporters and I) are mounting a Texas-sized winning campaign that will take down Senator Cornyn and deliver real results on health care, racial justice, economic opportunity, climate change, immigration, and gun violence," Hegar said in a brief statement released by her campaign.

Tamike "Tami" Craft defeated Cheri Thomas for the 14th Court of Appeals' Place 7 Democratic nomination with 59.61%

of the votes. She will be running against incumbent Ken Wise (R) in the November election.

Kali Morgan defeated Surrendran K. Pattel for the Democratic nomination for District Judge for the 505th Judicial District with 61.43% of the votes. She will be facing incumbent David Perwin (R) in the November election.

Democratic incumbent Amparo Monique Guerra will face Republican nominee Terry Adams after Adams beat his runoff opponent, James Lombardino. Adams received 70.88% of the vote while Lombardino took in 29.12%.

Fort Bend County

James Pressler defeated J.J. Clemence for the Fort Bend County Tax Assessor-Collector Republican nomination with 58.75% of the votes. Pressler will be facing Democratic candidate Carmen Turner in November.

Eric Fagan won the Democratic nomination for Fort Bend County Sheriff over Geneane Hughes with 50.03% of the votes. He will be facing Republican Trever Nehls in the November election. Trever Nehls is the twin brother of incumbent Troy Nehls.

Bridgette Smith-Lawson has won the Democratic nomination for the Fort Bend County Attorney against Sonia Rash with 64.86% of the votes. She will be facing incumbent Roy L. Cordes Jr. in November.

Harris County

Democrat Joe Danna will face incumbent Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez after Danna secured 51.46% of the vote in Tuesday's runoff election versus Paul Day who received 48.54% of the Republican vote. Gonzalez, a Democrat, was first elected in 2016 and sworn in Jan. 2017.

Democratic incumbent Amparo Monique Guerra will face Republican candidate Terry Adams to retain her seat on the First Court of Appeals after Adams beat his runoff opponent, James Lombardino. Adams received 70.88% of the vote while Lombardino took in 29.12%.

Incumbent Harris County Justice of the Peace for Precinct 5, Place 1 Russ Ridgway has defeated his runoff opponent, Mike Wolfe in the Republican runoff election. Ridgway will now face Democrat Israel Garcia in November to see if he can retain his seat.

See **ELECTIONS**, page 3



Katy area voters saw several elections that could change the political landscape of the area, including the race for Harris County Commissioner for Precinct 3, a position which has been held by Steve Radack since 1988.

'This is not a drill'



SCREENSHOT FROM FACEBOOK

Fort Bend County Judge KP George held a press conference on July 14 to announce he is raising the county risk level to red.

Fort Bend County judge moves risk level into red zone as COVID-19 cases continue to rise

By **SANDRA SADEK**
EDITORIAL INTERN

Fort Bend County Judge KP George has declared the county is now in the red "high-risk" category as of July 14 as COVID-19 cases continue to increase across the state.

In a morning press conference alongside Fort Bend County Health and Human Services Director Dr. Jacquelyn Johnson-Minter and Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinator Mark Flathouse, George said the exponential increase in positive case numbers is cause for concern. However, the judge is still not planning a second shutdown.

See **DRILL**, page 3

Guidelines announced for free, reduced meals

By **SANDRA SADEK**
EDITORIAL INTERN

Katy Independent School District has announced a new policy and eligibility guidelines for its free and reduced-price meals for children.

All eligible households must complete an online application prior to the start of school – no paper applications will be distributed this upcoming school year. A new application per household is required each school year.

The new application can be submitted through www.schoolcafe.com/KatyISD and will be available the first week of August. Students who receive a notification of approval during the first few days of school will not need to complete a new application for the 2020-2021 school year.

Eligible children must live in households with income at or below the federally approved levels, based on household size. Transfer students approved for the program at another school district may either complete a Katy ISD application or provide documentation of their eligibility for that same school year.

Foster children who are the legal responsibility of a welfare agency or court may also be eligible for benefits and must also submit an application, regardless of the income of the residing household. Households on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or Food Distribution Programs on Indian Reservations are also eligible as well as children who are homeless, runaway, migrant or displaced by a declared disaster.

Current costs for meals are as follow: \$1.25 for breakfast at all schools; \$2.25 for lunch at elementary schools and \$2.75 for lunch at junior high and high schools. If a child qualified for a reduced-price meal, breakfast costs \$0.30 at all schools and lunch costs \$0.40 at all schools.

Applications can be submitted at any time during the school year. Applicants do not have to be a U.S. citizen to apply for free or

See **MEALS**, page 3



Brookshire nonprofit standing strong

By JOSELYN HOFER
EDITORIAL INTERN

In Brookshire, just off of Velasco Road, lies the Hangar Unity Center – a small, faith-based nonprofit run by Ryan Orbin.

The nonprofit works to reach everyone in the community by providing the residents of Brookshire free services ranging from a ladies’ fitness night to one-on-one youth mentorship. Although the Hangar has been standing strong for close to three years, the idea stemmed from the work of Christian rap artist Bobby Herring, or as he’s better known, Tre9, said Orbin.

“Basically, we’re part of a larger nonprofit called Eyes on Me. Eyes on Me was started in 2011 by a guy named Bobby Herring. He traveled around, did shows, invited people into a relationship with God (and) God really just convinced him... and so he started the nonprofit,” Orbin said.

Thus began the nonprofit Eyes on Me, as well as an outreach event called Hip Hop Hope. The nonprofit only grew from there with a more specified effort directed towards youths with after school programs and mentorship. The Hangar really didn’t emerge until the arrival of Orbin after an eight-month stay in rehab.

“I grew up on the southwest



PHOTOS BY JOSELYN HOFER

The Hangar Unity Center has hosted and assisted with many mission projects including Fort Bend Ramps – a group which builds ramps for the disabled or elderly.

side of Houston, and long story short, I became addicted to drugs for 17 years. I couldn’t be at peace with myself. (It was) just 17 years of hell,” Orbin said.

It wasn’t until he hit rock bottom that Orbin decided to turn his life around and attend rehab at the Manna House in Brookshire. He was there for eight months, he said, where he began to heal from some of his biggest emotional wounds. When Orbin left, he came

out a new person. That was when he met Tre9 and began the journey of creating the Hangar.

“I met Tre ... and I started showing up every Thursday night for Hip Hop Hope. After a couple weeks Tre just got to know me a little bit. He said, ‘You know what, Ryan? I really wanna see Hip Hop Hope start in other communities. We’ve been praying that God would send somebody to be a missionary to this community and



Once the Hangar opens again, Ryan Orbin hopes to implement something new: a Hangar Unity Sports League for children. This allows kids from all over Brookshire to play a variety of sports including basketball, softball, and soccer.

help catalyze the movement’ and he was like, ‘I think you’re him.’ And I said, ‘Yep. I think I am,’” Orbin said.

From there, Eyes on Me expanded, and eventually led them to the Hangar’s current location in August of 2017. The area had

been an old school so most of the buildings required remodeling. Unfortunately, with the arrival of Hurricane Harvey, things were put on hold but it didn’t take long before remodeling resumed.

See **NONPROFIT**, page 8

Fort Bend Children’s Discovery Center reopens after hiatus



JOSELYN HOFER

The Fort Bend Children’s Discovery Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

By JOSELYN HOFER
EDITORIAL INTERN

After a two-month hiatus, the Fort Bend Children’s Discovery Center in Sugar Land will be re-opening with new changes designed to keep children and families safe from COVID-19. From reservations for entry to mask requirements, the Discovery Center has enforced a

wide range of hygiene regulations in order for families and children to enjoy a day away from home and learn something new, said Leti Luna, an associate to the center’s Director of PR and Promotions.

“We are following recommendations on the state and county level and also the CDC. We’re keeping everything at 20% capacity. That’s 30 people an hour. You’ll also notice that we have a lot of hand sanitizing

stations that have recently been installed. We also have some new panels so that way — even though you’re having face to face interaction — you have a protective barrier,” said Luna.

This isn’t the only thing the Discovery Center has added though. When it came to keeping children engaged, they had to get creative, said Luna. Along with new health guidelines, the museum has added new activities that families

can participate in together while maintaining social distancing.

“Another thing that’s really changed is the museum flow,” said Luna. “So, we’ve introduced something that’s called the Epic Adventure, and essentially, it’s a series of activities where kids have to go find different clues. The reason for this is that families are going in one direct path. So that way we can help them maintain social distancing but also give them something to do and something to work on together as a family.”

As a sister location to the Children’s Museum in Houston and a non-profit organization, the Fort Bend Children’s Discovery Center has also contributed to children in the community before and during COVID-19. Partnered with many different organizations around the Fort Bend and Harris County area, the Discovery Center provided families with low incomes a chance to give their child the same opportunities for education as other families that can afford the Discovery Center, said Luna. With afterschool programs and ticket give-aways, children in the Fort Bend area were still able to experience the Discovery Center despite financial difficulties.


“We’re basically trying to make sure that children’s families that may not have the means to pay for a visit (are) still getting the same type of education. That way we can really serve the entire community and no one misses out on the opportunity we have for kids to learn,” said Luna.

Although COVID-19 closed the Discovery Center, starting in March, this didn’t stop them from reaching out to all children to provide them with equal opportunities for education, said Luna. With virtual lessons from educators around the Fort Bend area, kids from all over could connect and learn from home.

“That was our way of getting educators from Fort Bend and from our Houston location to still connect with families even though they couldn’t visit us physically. And that has been our way of continuing to connect to everyone while we’ve been closed since March,” said Luna.

Staff at the Discovery Center are excited to be reopening and can’t wait for families to visit, Luna said.

“What we’re trying to do is go along with our mission of bringing child-centered learning that really embraces lifelong learning. So, mask up and come visit us!” said Luna.



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GRANTS

from page 1

to \$5 million, which were previously excluded from the program.

The single \$10,000 grant per business has been replaced to offer a range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 based on small business annual revenues. The SBEGP is applicable to all Fort Bend businesses with annual revenues between \$25,000 to \$5 million, have one to 50 full time employees and can demonstrate economic injury due to COVID-19.

Although the program initially prevented businesses who received grants from other programs from applying but now assistance is available whether or not Fort Bend businesses have received other assistance. Applications can be found on the Fort Bend County website.

The city of Fulshear's Small Business Grant program has expanded as well to include businesses that do not remit sales taxes to the city in addition to businesses that do. The remaining \$161,250 will be

distributed to any business operating in Fulshear on or before March 19, 2020 – regardless of the length of time in operation.

Businesses that received a grant under the first round are not eligible for a second grant. However, businesses that applied in the first round but were ineligible are encouraged to reapply. Grants will be awarded to eligible applicants on the basis of one of two tiered schedules. Eligible businesses who remit sales tax for the City of Fulshear may receive grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 based on the amount of sales taxes remitted to the city. Eligible businesses that do not remit sales tax may receive grants ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 based on the number of full time equivalent employees at their Fulshear location.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and grants will be awarded until the funds run out or by Aug. 14 at 5 p.m.

Fulshear businesses may apply for both the city of Fulshear program and the Fort Bend County program.

DRILL

from page 1

“That’s the last thing I wanted to do. That’s why I’m asking our citizens to behave a certain way because I have full confidence in Fort Bend County residents,” George said. “When we had the shutdown, our citizens behave very well, so I’m confident they will follow through on it, but I cannot guarantee (there won’t be another shutdown). If there is a shutdown come from government, we have to follow through on it.”

The red risk level means the community has a high potential for exposure to known or suspected sources of COVID-19. Under that category, the county asks that residents minimize contact with others, wherever possible and avoid leaving home except for essential needs. Social distancing, wearing face coverings, and practicing good hand hygiene is also necessary, the judge said.

As of July 14, Fort Bend County reported 5,211 confirmed cases and 65 deaths. The Texas Department of Health Services reports 264,313

statewide cases with 3,322 fatalities as of July 14.

“Since early March, we’ve responded in a lot of ways that have been helpful. And we got to witness the decrease of disease in our community. But we also began to let our guard down,” Johnson-Minter said. “And we witness the consequences of that. We had a false sense of security, and it resulted in some of the numbers that Judge George has given us earlier.”

The Fort Bend County Office of Emergency Management has been activated since March, said Flathouse, whose office has been working around the clock as the situation continues to change.

“Moving to red is very important to us because it shows that we need to listen, and we need to adapt and adjust. And we need to make sure that this whole operation and everything that we’re doing is very fluid,” Flathouse said.

The announcement of the red alert comes as Texas Gov. Greg Abbott echoed similar sentiments of the situation worsening if people do not follow mask orders, which may lead to another economic lockdown.

“I made clear that I made this tough decision for one reason: It was our last best effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. If we do not slow the spread of COVID-19 ... the next step would have to be a lockdown,” Abbott said in a press conference on July 10.

As the number of cases continues to increase and flood hospitals, Judge George said the county has started looking for alternate sites to hold diagnosed individuals needing medical attention. But no exact location was given yet.

“We will prevail, there is no question about it,” George said.

Harris County has also moved to its highest risk level. Level 1 signifies a severe and uncontrolled level of COVID-19 in the county. As of July 14, there are currently 17,037 confirmed cases of which 6,161 are active. There are 194 reported deaths. Waller County has not issued a high-risk level alert and reports 257 confirmed cases as of July 14. No fatalities have been reported.

The Texas Medical Center has also been reporting an increase in cases. On July 14, TMC reported an average 1,776 new cases per day, four times the number of cases observed during the peak in April.

MEALS

from page 1

reduced-price meals. Military families must report basic pay and cash bonuses as income. Any cash value

allowances for off-base housing, food or clothing as well as Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance payments count as income. Housing as part of the Military Housing Privatization initiative or any additional combat pay resulting from

deployment is to be excluded from income.

The Nutrition and Food Service Department is located at 5364 Franz Road, Katy. Staff is available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. to assist parents and guardians in complet-

ing the application, starting the second week of August. Bring names of all members of the household and their gross monthly income. For more information, call the Katy ISD Nutrition and Food Service Department office at 281-396-6240.

ELECTIONS

from page 1

Democratic candidate Michael Moore will face Republican Tom Ramsey in the race for the Harris County Commissioner for Precinct 3 seat soon to be vacated by Republican Commissioner Steve Radack. Moore took home 56.95% of the vote while his opponent Diana Martinez Alexander garnered 43.05%. This race will see a new face come into the seat for the first time since 1988 when Radack was first elected.

Democratic candidate Mark Alan Harrison will face incumbent Harris County Constable for Precinct 5 Ted Heap after taking the runoff election for the Democratic nomination with 57.24% of the vote against Randy Newman who received 42.76% of the vote. Heap, a Republican, was first sworn into office in 2017.

Akilah Bacy has secured the Democratic nomination for Texas House District 138

against runoff opponent Jenifer Rene Pool. Bacy had a significant lead in the runoff with 79.47% of votes cast for her while Pool received 20.53% of the vote. Bacy will now face Republican candidate Lacey Hull in November to see who will get outgoing State Representative Dwayne Bohac’s seat in November.

Waller County

Incumbent R. Glenn Smith was defeated by Republican candidate Troy Guidry for the office of Waller County Sheriff. Guidry took the runoff race with 56.16% of the vote which will allow him to face Democratic candidate Cedric Watson in November. Smith had served as Waller County Sheriff since 2009.

Smith took to Facebook to congratulate Guidry on his victory and to thank supporters.

“Congratulations to Troy Guidry and wish all of Waller County the best in the future. God Bless all of the citizens and really appreciate all the help over the years,” Smith said.

KATY TIMES PET OF THE WEEK

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SUDOKU

8				1			9	
7		1				4		2
	4					8		
4	6				5			3
			3			9	6	
			9		8	1		
				2				
			6		9			1
5	7							

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

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This Week’s Puzzle Sponsored by

Katy Times

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- Sound unit
- Trim by cutting
- Small buffalo
- Ancient manuscript
- Look angry or sullen
- Glum
- Northern Zambia peoples
- Central
- Collector of birds’ eggs
- Misbehavior
- Top of the line
- Political action committee
- Have already done
- Al Bundy’s wife
- Entertainment channel
- Holiday (informal)
- The common gibbon
- Legendary actress
- Seasoned sausages
- Bluish greens
- Ridiculed
- Three-dimensional arrangement
- Emerged
- Type of protein
- Denmark natives
- Leak slowly through
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Midway between south and southeast

CLUES DOWN

- Artistic dancing
- Plenty
- Act leisurely
- Serve as a warning
- Admired lovingly
- Leftover oil from distillation process
- Company officer
- Egyptian unit of capacity
- One transmits information
- Middle layer of an embryo
- Form of “to be”
- Cairo Regional Airport
- Partner to cheese
- Sample stage
- A shirt may have none
- Public gatherings
- Disallow
- Overnight suitcases
- French river
- Where boats dock
- Top of a pot
- Type of drug
- City along the Rhine
- Animal disease
- They go in martinis
- A way to break away
- Intermediate ecological
- Baby term for father

Answers will be provided in next week’s edition.

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U.S. tech workers visas suspended

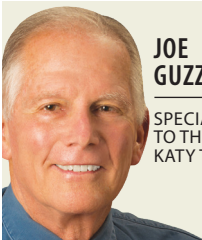
President Trump's June 22 Executive Order suspending several temporary nonimmigrant visas is a good beginning. But as the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu would have said way back around 600 B.C., "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

The journey for true immigration reform that helps – not crushes – American workers has been, figuratively, a thousand-mile uphill trip. The forces that oppose commonsense immigration policies are powerful: globalists, lobbyists, religious institutions, the mainstream media, Silicon Valley, advocacy groups and immigration lawyers.

Suspended until at least Dec. 31 are visas that hinder thousands of job-seeking Americans. Among them is the H-1B, mostly for tech workers. A recent U.S. Citizens and Immigration Services report found that nearly 600,000 foreign-born tech workers are in the U.S. labor force. These workers are paid at wage levels well below the occupation's local median wage, an outrage especially in light of large-scale IT layoffs that include currently employed H-1Bs.

Also suspended is the H-2B for nonagricultural workers. This visa often is issued to leisure employees who do jobs that Americans have historically done, including lifeguarding, landscaping and working at high-end resorts. The president's order further includes the J-1 visa that bans Summer Work Travel participants who take au pair, camp counselor and internship jobs and the L-1 visa which facilitates international transfers from offices abroad to U.S. locations. Also banned are the family members who may accompany the visa holder or will soon.

But the order omitted one of the most egregious immigration programs, Optional Practical Training (OPT), which displaces qualified Americans and is especially harmful to U.S. students who recently earned their university degrees. About 1 million foreign-born are enrolled in America's colleges and universities, and it allows students who enter the U.S. on F-1 visas to convert their diplomas into work permits if they have science, technology, engineering or math degrees. Several hundred thousand international STEM workers join the U.S. labor force annually. The general public



JOE GUZZARDI
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

knows little about the program, but its particulars reveal an abuse of immigration policy and disdain for American workers. First and foremost, "practical training" regulations mean work permission; training isn't its goal. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 provides no employment authorization for the F-1 visa, and originally, the student was expected to return home after completing studies.

OPT was created entirely through regulation and without congressional authorization. The most significant expansion evolved from an all-out Silicon Valley lobbying effort. In 2008, then-Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff met with Microsoft's Bill Gates at a Georgetown cocktail party. As a result of Chertoff and Gates' informal talk, focused on circumnavigating the H-1B cap, three revised OPT guidelines evolved.

First, graduated aliens were allowed to remain in F-1 visa status so that, if jobless, they could search for employment. Second, employed OPT aliens could remain in F-1 status from the time their employers filed an H-1B petition on their behalf and until a decision was made on that petition. Finally, DHS authorized a 17-month work period for aliens with STEM degrees that created a maximum 35-month OPT term. For more than a decade, OPT has been under continuous litigation, yet federal courts have yet to rule on its questionable legality.

OPT represents corporate welfare at its worst. Not only are U.S. tech workers specifically targeted for displacement, but companies that hire OPTs don't pay FICA payroll taxes. Think of it: U.S. employers receive financial incentives to discriminate against their fellow citizens!

President Trump gets an A- for his June executive order. He realizes that American workers represent the nation's backbone. But President Trump could achieve the coveted A+ if he would bring his office's powers to end the likely illegal and ethically indefensible OPT.



The morning newsletter is shaking up news

The New York Times made a quiet disclosure recently that speaks loudly about the state of news media today.

Its newsletter, "The Morning," has reached over 17 million circulation as of June 2, which the paper says is one of the largest daily audiences in any form of journalism across all platforms.

Let's process that. A free news summary sent by email – similar to missives now offered 24/7 by most publishers – has found the journalistic sweet spot for a vast number of readers. It prompted the Times's media writer, Ben Smith, to tweet: "So many news organizations gradually realize we are, in varying degrees, email newsletter publishers with websites."

That's a clever turn of phrase, but is he right? Some readers will always want depth and will click – or pick up the paper – for the full story. But as newsletters become more detailed, while consumers' time and attention scatter, elements of the news business will change or be forced out.

I still get six newspapers delivered to my driveway each morning. I stick with them because I enjoy holding a paper in my hands and scanning the printed pages; also, because I wish to support the efforts of publishers, both locally and nationally. I think most



PETER FUNT
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

newspaper websites have yet to figure out the best way to display stories online, so while traveling I prefer to read the replica e-editions of daily papers.

Lately, though, I find that the best newsletters bridge the gap between digest and detail – while jumping over print. Before even taking rubber bands off the papers, I sit at my kitchen table, with coffee, cereal and laptop. My inbox contains more than two dozen newsletters that arrived overnight since I read Brian Stelter's "Reliable Sources" report from CNN before bed.

Ironically, while the purpose of newsletters is to encapsulate and streamline content, the combined volume of multiple daily subscriptions can be overwhelming. For many of us it has changed our daily routine and the way we consume news.

The newsletter boom is creating marketing challenges for publishers similar to what they faced decades ago when deciding whether online content

should be free or paid. The Washington Post offers a surprisingly detailed newsletter called "The Daily 202" in the morning and "The 5-Minute Fix" in the afternoon – both for free, to draw readers into the digital tent. The Wall Street Journal has seen its paid subscriptions rise significantly, something the paper's CMO Suzi Watford attributes to the Journal's growing array of newsletters.

The Times has made perhaps the biggest push into newsletters, recently giving one of its most skilled journalists, David Leonhardt, the task of writing "The Morning," assisted by his own small staff of writers. It has been expanded – delivering not just headlines and teasers, but as much detail as, say, an hourly newscast on NPR.

It's been clear for some time that many printed newspapers are fading. We've assumed that publishers were victims of forces outside their direct control: cable-TV, internet, social media and, of course, readers' changing habits. What if publishers' own newsletters deliver the final blow to ink-on-newsprint?

Funny thing: When Ben Smith quipped that his bosses had become "email newsletter publishers with websites" he never even bothered to mention that, for now, they also print newspapers.

Katy Times

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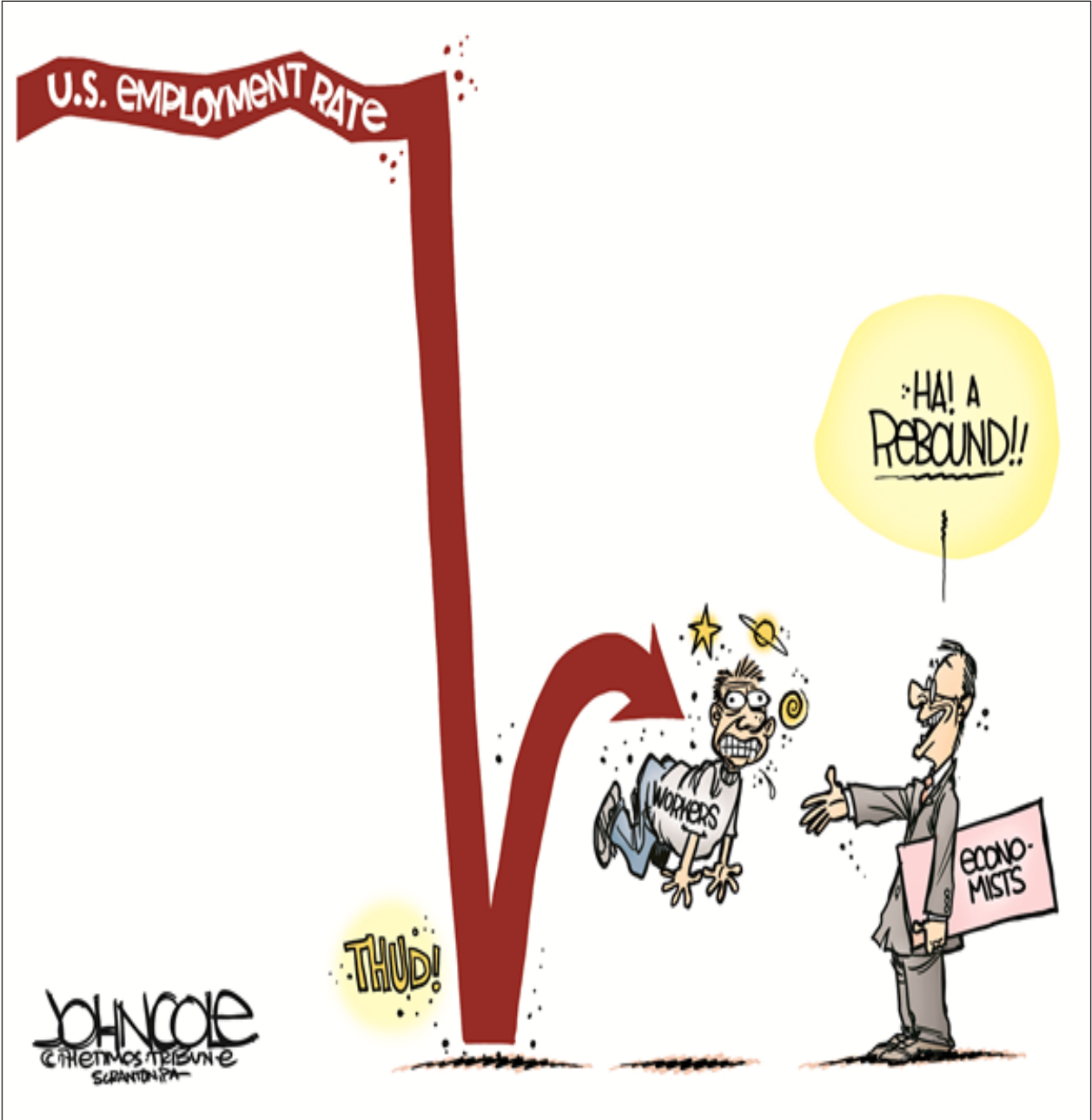
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KATYTIMES.COM

Strength and conditioning camps reopen

By COLE McNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy ISD student-athletes returned to strength and conditioning camps and sport-specific instruction Monday morning after being barred from in-person workouts since June 24 due to rising COVID-19 cases.

The original plan was to resume on July 6, but the University Interscholastic League suggested its member schools close camps leading up to the Independence Day holiday and kept student-athletes out of workouts until earlier this week.

The UIL also released updated guidelines ahead of schools returning that were installed on Monday



including a mask mandate for all non-participants and coaches. The new guidelines also allowed for group workouts to occur with more than one player on offense and more than one player on defense with time winding down before the scheduled start of fall sports practices on Aug. 3.

That beginning of fall sports practices could still change as other states have already pushed back the start date but the UIL has said in a previous statement that it is planning on starting fall sports on time. In New Mexico, it was already announced the high school fall contact sports of football and soccer will be played in the spring.

Katy ISD also released its return-to-school plan on Monday which features an in-person and virtual option but student-athletes will be able to participate in extracurricular activities regardless of their choice.

However, if a student-athlete chooses the online option, they would only be able to participate in

their sport before the start or after the school day ends whereas the students choosing in-person instruction can participate in their athletic period during the school day.

Nearby Fort Bend ISD announced its return-to-school plan will be 100% online and there will be no extracurricular activities until in-person instruction resumes. Ryan Dunsmore with the Fort Bend Herald reported from Monday's board meeting that Fort Bend ISD Superintendent Charles Dupre didn't say when an in-person option could be coming.

"Right now, the TEA tells us we can ask parents to commit to a six-week period of staying with whatever their choice was, online or

(face-to-face,)" Dupre said. "We're thinking definitely will have to be a full grading period, nine weeks in Fort Bend at a minimum. It may be a full semester."

Katy's lone 5A school, Paetow, is in District 10 with four schools in Fort Bend County. The Panthers are scheduled to play Foster and Fort Bend Kempner in consecutive weeks in September and Terry and Fort Bend Hightower in back-to-back weeks in October.

Fort Bend was the most recent county where schools will delay their extracurricular involvement after El Paso and Laredo Counties announced their schools would not be starting fall sports practices on time this year.

Katy football well-recognized

Six Katy area footballers land on MaxPreps' preseason all-state team; Tigers ranked No.11

By COLE McNANNA
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

Katy football was well-recognized on MaxPreps' Texas preseason all-state team with three representatives on the first-team defense, two on the first-team offense as well as another second-team offense selection. Four Katy Tigers and one player each from the Taylor Mustangs and Tompkins Falcons were honored.

Leading the list is a new face on the campus of Katy High School but a familiar one to Katy ISD. Brandon Campbell enrolled at Katy High on March 26 and announced his verbal commitment to the University of Southern California two days later.

Campbell grew up in Katy and attended Mayde Creek High School as a freshman before making his varsity football debut for the Taylor Mustangs as a sophomore.

Last year, Campbell suited up for the Pearland Oilers where he ran for 879 yards and 18 touchdowns and also racked up 280 receiving yards and three scores. He was also the lone Katy representative on MaxPreps' preseason All-American team, landing a spot on the second-team offense.

Three of Campbell's new teammates rounded out the Tigers' representatives and helped their team check in at No. 11 in MaxPreps' national preseason top 25. Katy was the third-highest Texas team, behind only North Shore (5) and Duncanville (8) and ahead of Southlake Carroll (16) and Shadow Creek (24). Only California had as many teams in the rankings, followed closely by four teams from Florida.

Leading this year's Tiger defense will be the three members of the preseason all-state first-team defense in senior defensive back Hunter Washington and junior classmates Ty Kana and Malick Sylla.

Washington enters his final season in Katy colors as a Florida State University commit and returned both of his interceptions for touchdowns last year. Kana, the 6-foot, 2-inch, 210-pound linebacker, was a big help to Katy's regional finalist season last year while Malick Sylla looks to make some noise in the trenches with his 6-foot, 5-inch, 225-pound frame.

Earning preseason first-team all-state offense distinction was Taylor Mustangs offensive lineman Bryce Foster, also known as "The Mountain." The 6-foot, 5-inch, 330-pound senior was a key cog to Taylor's historic playoff run last fall and proved himself to be one of the nation's top weight throwers on the spring track circuit.

Tompkins' senior quarterback Jalen Milroe rounded out Katy's honorees, making the second-team offense. Last year, the University of Texas commit led the Falcons to the regional finals with nearly 3,000 yards of total offense and 36 touchdowns.



PHOTOS BY MARK GOODMAN

Ty Kana is one of four Katy Tiger representatives honored on MaxPreps' preseason all-state team, joining Hunter Washington and Malick Sylla on the first-team defense and Brandon Campbell on the first-team offense.



Jalen Milroe earned second-team offense recognition on MaxPreps' preseason all-state team coming off a regional finals berth and nearly 3,000 yards of total offense as a junior.



Hunter Washington suits up for his final season for Katy as a Florida State commit and was one of three Tiger defenders on MaxPreps' preseason all-state team.



JOE SOUTHERN

Houston Astros pitcher Enoli Paredes unleashes a pitch during batting practice at Minute Maid Park Sunday afternoon.

Astros warm up at Summer Camp

By JOE SOUTHERN
SPECIAL TO THE KATY TIMES

The Houston Astros are continuing their daily Summer Camp training workouts at Minute Maid Park and the University of Houston in preparation for a 60-game season that will start July 24 if it isn't hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Sunday, July 12, the team took batting practice at Minute Maid with Latin music pulsating in the background while sweltering without the air conditioning turned on. Absent from the workout were pitching coach Brent Strom and several of the team's premier pitchers.

On Saturday, July 11, camp was canceled after a staff member who worked around the pitchers' dressing area reported a potential exposure to COVID-19. As a precaution, Strom and the staff were tested and await the results.

"As part of MLB's testing and reporting plan, we were alerted that a staff member was potentially exposed to a COVID-positive individual outside the organization," the team said in a Saturday statement. "Out of an abundance of caution, we have cancelled today's workout. We are working closely with MLB and our team physicians to follow the established testing and cleaning protocols so that we can safely bring our players and staff back to the field as soon as possible."

In the meantime, the rest of the team took batting practice and did other workouts Sunday.

The Astros placed pitchers Jose Urquidy, Cionel Pérez, Ralph Garza, and Shawn Dubin and designated hitter Yordan Alvarez on the 10-day injured list Monday.

The Astros will open the season Friday, July 24, at home against the Seattle Mariners. As of now, fans will not be allowed at the games.

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KISD prepares for return to school

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

Katy ISD has unveiled its Fall 2020 back to school program in line with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's direction to reopen school districts for in-person or virtual instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Katy ISD will offer parents and students in-person and virtual instruction options as well as implementing safety protocols to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus. Both instructional options will follow the KISD Board of Trustees' 2020-2021 instructional calendar. The 2020-2021 academic year begins Aug. 19.

"Our priority is to ensure we have the mechanisms and protocols in place to protect the health of all learners and staff when they return to school," said Superintendent Ken Gregorski in a press release. "We will continue to keep our parents and staff up to date with the latest school district related information and guidance from the state and local health officials."

Instruction options

The first option is in-person instruction which will include face-to-face instruction in addition to the digital learning management system, Canvas, in the event of a return to at-home instruction due to COVID-19. Daily attendance will be taken. The second option is the Katy Virtual Academy, in which students will be able to engage in two-way, real-time, live instruction with teachers

through Canvas. All KVA classes follow the KISD curriculum, in line with the TEKS and Texas graduation requirements. Daily attendance will also be taken.

Parents may enroll their children into KVA for the fall 2020 semester by logging into PowerSchool. The KVA enrollment option will open July 20 through Aug. 5, 2020. Students who choose to begin the school year enrolled in KVA may elect to return to in-person instruction at the end of a secondary six-weeks and elementary nine-weeks grading period. KVA enrolled students are not allowed to return to in-person instruction before the close of a grading period.

Students participating in both in-person and virtual instruction will follow the same grading guidelines. However, the attendance requirement for the fall 2020 final exam eligibility has been waived. High school students may exempt a final exam if semester average and behavior requirements are met.

Safety protocols

To implement enhanced cleaning procedures between each bus trip, bell schedules for both in-person and virtual instruction have been adjusted to maintain hygiene protocols.

- High School: 7:15 a.m. – 2:35 p.m.
- Elementary 1: 7:55 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.
- Elementary 2: 8:25 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.
- Junior High: 8:55 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.

In compliance with Gov. Abbott's executive order requiring the wearing of masks, KISD has put in place safety guidelines for

returning students and staff. These guidelines are subject to change as the status of the virus changes.

Facial coverings are required for all district staff as well as students grades 4 through 12. For students pre-k through grade 3, face coverings are encouraged. Instructional day temperature checks will be required for new district enrollees and late arrival students.

As part of the protocol, no outside food or gift deliveries will be accepted and all visitors non-essential to school operations will not have access to the campus. This includes the first day of school and scheduled mealtimes. All parents and volunteers will be required to conduct campus visits either by phone, virtually, or by pre-scheduling an appointment. There will be no student field trips or large group gatherings or events.

Food Service

Following the district's safety protocol, all KISD Nutrition and Food Service staff will use face shields, facial coverings and gloves when working. Cafeteria serving and eating areas will be disinfected daily and between uses. Grab N Go carts will also be utilized at certain designated campuses to minimize cafeteria lines and maintain social distancing.

Students may be directed to eat in various locations throughout the building to maximize social distancing. Parents are encouraged to use the Pay N' Go mobile app to provide student meal money. Visit <http://www.katysd.org/PNG/> for more information.

www.katysd.org/PNG/ for more information.

Staff

All staff will report onsite to their assigned work location. This includes KVA teachers, who will need to report to an assigned campus classroom to provide online instruction and/or a combination of in-person and virtual classes. A daily self-screening for symptoms will be required before arriving to work.

All business travel must be pre-approved by department Cabinet members and large staff gatherings, including professional development should be held virtually.

If an employee tests positive for COVID-19 or is experiencing any related symptoms, they will need to stay home and submit a COVID-19 Positive Self-Reporting notification via the Katy Cloud. For more information, visit <http://www.katysd.org/returntoschool/Pages/Staff.aspx>.

UIL and Non-UIL activities

All UIL activities will be conducted in line with UIL guidelines and COVID-19 protocols. Non-UIL student programs will have to follow the same protocols and guidelines. Face coverings are to be implemented as feasible.

The Katy Times will continue to update this story on our website at katytimes.com as more information become available and will have follow up stories leading up to school reopening.

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Psalms 94:19

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950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Owner: Mason Creek Utility District
Owner's Office: 847 Dominion, Katy, TX 77450
Project (the Work): Furnish, deliver and install service-rated automatic transfer switch with pad, weatherheads, ducts, wiring, conduits, etc. at Galleon Oaks Water Plant, including demolition, removals, etc., all as further described in the Contract Documents.
Project location: 1609 Galleon Oaks, Katy TX 77450
Owner proposes to let a contract for the Project and seeks bids. Generally, bids must be signed, sealed and physically submitted at Owners Office by **August 5, 2020, at 11:00 AM**, when they will be opened and publicly read, all in accordance with the Contract Documents, which are: (i) on file at the Owner's Office where all bidders may examine them and get copies; (ii) incorporated herein by reference, including prevailing wages; and (iii) posted on civcastusa.com. A pre-bid conference is set for July 24, 2020 at 11:00 AM at the Operations Center, 851 Dominion, Katy, Texas 77450 (also accessible by telephone conference at 800-719-8139; conference code 447079). Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. /s/ Len Forsyth, Project Officer.

July 9

Puzzle Answers

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4	2	3		6	5	1	8	9	7

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

950 PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

Tailgate found, for more information contact Corporal Fred Petruska, Katy Police Department at 281-391-4848.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WALLER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT
AUGUST 12, 2020 9:00 A.M.
COMMISSIONERS' COURTROOM,
WALLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Waller County Commissioners' Court will conduct a Public Hearing under the authority of Transportation Code Chapter 251, Subchapter E to consider the installation of No Thru Truck Signs at the following location:

Wade Road – No Thru Trucks

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and participate in the Public Hearing.

NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Thursday, August 6, 2020, At 1:00 P.M.** By Teleconference At 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 869 6075 8137, On Docket No. 2020-03, The Application Of **David Winkelmann and Terri Austin**, Present Owners, Under Section 22.5-3 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **1207 Cottage Oak Lane., In The Woodcreek Reserve Planned Development District.** Property Description: Lot 5, Block 1, **Woodcreek Reserve Section 7 in Fort Bend County.**

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance To The Platted Side Yard Building Setback Of Seven And A Half (7.5') For The Placement Of A Shed.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Thursday, August 6, 2020, At 1:00 P.M.** By Teleconference At 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 869 6075 8137, On Docket No. 2020-05, The Application Of **Genitempo Joseph and Kristen**, Present Owners, Under Section 22.5-1 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **911 Windsor Woods Lane., In The Woodcreek Reserve Planned Development District.** Property Description: Lot 12, Block 1, **Woodcreek Reserve Section 5 in Fort Bend County.**

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance On The Side Yard Building Setback Of Seven And A Half (7.5') To Be Reduced To Five Feet (5').

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

NOTICE

The Zoning Board Of Adjustment Of The City of Katy, Texas, Will Conduct A Public Hearing On **Thursday, August 6, 2020, At 1:00 P.M.** By Teleconference At 888-475-4499, Meeting ID: 869 6075 8137, On Docket No. 2020-06, The Application Of **Katy Pin Oak Retail Partners, LTD.,** Present Owners, Under Section 22.5-3 Of The Zoning Ordinance. Address Of The Lot To Be Affected: **1250 Pin Oak Road., In The "C-2" General Business District.** Property Description: **Reserve B, Block 1, Lifemark Medical Center Partial Replat of Reserve "E" in Fort Bend County.**

It Is An Appeal Of An Order And A Determination Made By An Administrative Official In The Enforcement Of The Zoning Ordinance And A Request For A Variance On The Rear Yard Set Back.

David Minze, Chairman
Zoning Board of Adjustment

INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, addressed to **Board of Directors, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 171,** will be received in the offices of SWA Group Landscape Architects, 712 Main St., 6th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, until **2 p.m. Local Time, Tuesday, August 4th, 2020,** at which time all bids will be opened and publicly read via Go-To-Meeting for the furnishing of all material, equipment, labor and supervision necessary or incidental for Construction of **"Elyson Blvd Section 1 Landscape - West",** Harris County, Texas.

Scope of Work of the Contract includes, but is not limited to, the construction of concrete trails, sprinkler irrigation, grading, grassing, planting, and landscape maintenance.

A NON-MANDATORY pre-bid conference will be held on **Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.** Local Time, via Go-To-Meeting. Join the meeting from your computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/577469741> or join the call via telephone number 1-866-899-4679, and use access code 577-469-741.

A bid bond or cashier's check in an amount not less than 5 percent of the total amount bid must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to provide the required bonds and insurance certificates as outlined in the bid documents.

Bid documents may be downloaded at www.civcastusa.com. Addenda will be posted there, as required. **Documents will be available for download on Monday, July 20th, 2020.**

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive all defects and irregularities in bidding or bidding process except time of submitting a Bid. The Successful Bidder, if any, will be the responsible Bidder which in the Board's judgment will be most advantageous to the District and result in the best and most economical completion of the Project.

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Charter review postponed

By SANDRA SADEK
EDITORIAL INTERN

Brookshire’s City Council has postponed its review of the proposed city charter to allow councilmembers time to review each section of the charter and write out their questions during the council’s July 9 special meeting.

The city council is working to create a charter for the city as its population continues to grow. The council met to discuss and possibly take action to update or amend the city charter as recommended and approved by the city’s charter commission. The major concern of the council was whether to create a position for either a city manager or city administrator.

City Attorney Justin Pruitt explained the role of a city manager mostly focuses on separating politics from administrative tasks. However, councilmembers have the ability to describe the exact duties of the position in the charter if they desire.

“The administration of the city is supposed to be apolitical, so nonpolitical. And the idea would be that, as the council makes the policy decisions for the city, the city manager then would enact those in the best business interest of the city,” Pruitt said.

Many members of the council and the commission expressed the importance of drafting a charter that looked to the future of Brookshire rather than the present.

“When we went in for this

charter, we went in with the vision that this was something that would improve the city of Brookshire,” said Kathy Foster, one of the commission members. “This charter is going to be for years to come. This is going to be for our grandchildren, our great-grandchildren and so on.”

The revision of the charter was postponed to a future date to allow council member to come up with questions for each section of the charter, making the meeting more efficient. The goal is to present the charter to citizens during the November 2020 election, which would need to be approved and completed prior to Aug. 17; however, the council is willing to withhold the charter on the ballot until 2021 to ensure its proper drafting.

NONPROFIT

from page 2

“We started remodeling about November of 2017 and then it (was) Hip Hop Hope on Thursday nights and from there since then we’ve built a whole slate of programming,” Orbin said.

Of course, with COVID-19 restrictions, the Hangar has had to make some adjustments, but on a regular week they have a variety of programming, open for everyone. That includes a mentorship program, a teen mom support group, a free medical clinic, soccer training, fitness nights, and a church gathering every Sunday.

Due to COVID-19, the Hangar has been closed but is still serving the community through food drives and live videos on social media, Orbin said. Orbin himself has even visited some of the kids the Hangar has mentored, offering snacks and toys.

“My wife and I – since we’re here in this community – we’re walking the neighborhoods in the evening, we’re checking on our kids in the apartments, we’re getting stuff for them. We’ve (also) been doing a lot of online stuff through the Eyes On Me Facebook page to help bring messages of hope,” Orbin said.

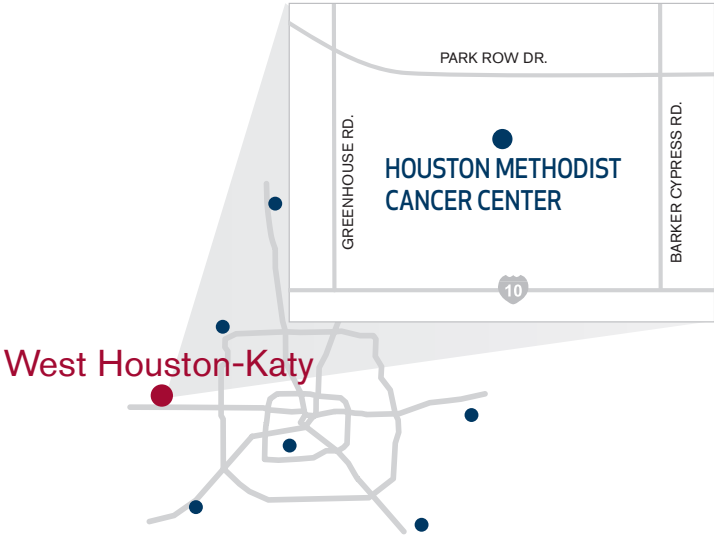
Orbin hopes to re-open sometime in the fall with even more programs, but, until then he is still finding new ways to give support and accomplish the Hangar’s mission.

“I want to see every person walk in the fullness of what God has for them,” he said. “If we’re going to walk in that fullness ... we have to allow him to heal. We have to be willing to be transparent with him and allow him to heal our hearts... And so that’s ultimately what I want to see; these people walking in complete and total freedom and their God-given destiny.”



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